

THE FACTORY AT BEECHER FALLS, VT.

1889 - 1962

(research by John Morrissey)

## I N T R O D U C T I O N

The successful outcome of any planning depends on those who through their effort, loyalty, devotion, and understanding faithfully carry out the details of the plan. There were many people involved in the outcome of the Beecher Falls venture and to attempt to list all of them would result in a sizeable volume. There were men like Eddie Paquette, Walter Lakin, Paul Martin and others who during their lifetime contributed unsparingly of themselves to the end that their factory would survive and prosper. These and others - Omer Lachance, Amede Dube, Henry Duff - are now dead and gone.

There are others still living but no longer active who gave the best years of their lives to the factory and had much to do with its preservation during trying times; men like Walter Heath, Neal Bohan, Alcide Bergeron and Ernest Lapointe. Each and every one of them left his mark somewhere on the factory and set a shining example for his successor.

There are those who in 1943 waded through the flood inundated factory (Gleo and Eddie Dwinell, Lloyd and Burns Paquette, Bob Fuller, Woodrow Gamsby, to name a few) desperately trying to salvage something that would be needed when the floodwaters subsided. And there were those who during the bleak and almost hopeless winter of 1937-38 took on the hard, cold, and unaccustomed task of cutting firewood so that the factory would not close down for want of fuel it was unable to purchase because it lacked both the cash and the credit.

The list would be long and it would contain the names of many still performing daily their part in the operation of the factory. Not one of them, living or dead, would want to be the subject of eulogy in the pages which follow, but to them and to those who have taken their places, to all who have worked, or are working, side by side with them, this history is dedicated.

Beecher Falls, Vermont

September, 1962

The village of Beecher Falls is located in the Town of Canaan, Essex County, Vermont, in that portion of the Township within the confines of what at the outset was the Town of Norfolk, comprising 3,340 acres. The Town of Norfolk was chartered by the State of Vermont to one Benaleel Woodward in 1782, and on October 23rd, 1801, it was annexed to Canaan.

The land on which now stands the premises of the Beecher Falls Manufacturing Corporation, including the site of their fire protection reservoir, was originally owned by a Joseph Goddard, who deeded it to Nathan Beecher on May 31st, 1824. It remained in the Beecher family until September 28th, 1869, when it was transferred to Messrs. William H. Tibbetts and Charles H. Nichols. It then changed hands several times prior to its acquisition by George H. Van Dyke on March 3rd, 1889, who on September 3rd of that year deeded it to the Upper Coos Railroad (now Maine Central RR) who owned it until January 6th, 1915, when it was conveyed to the original Beecher Falls Company. Consequently, from 1889 to 1915, the George T. Comins Company and its successors the Beecher Falls Company operated on lands leased from the Maine Central Railroad.

Within a year or two after the railroad was built, the George T. Comins Company in 1889 built a large sawmill on a site roughly corresponding to the location of the present sawmill and immediately adjacent lumber yard of the Beecher Falls Manufacturing Corporation. The George T. Comins Company had its main office and principal place of business in Concord, N. H., where among other activities they were engaged in the "manufacture of chamber suites and bedsteads" to quote their own description of this activity. It would seem, though, that most if not all of this manufacturing was performed in the New Hampshire State Prison by the inmates, and we can only assume that the idea of enlarging the scope of the Comins activities at Beecher Falls was generated by the foresight of the Comins principals in anticipating an eventual ban on the interstate trading of goods branded "Prison Made."

In 1889 the hamlet of Beecher Falls was made up of about eight dwellings, a small mercantile establishment, a few neighboring small farms, and the sawmill and woodworking enterprise of the George T. Comins Company which was the mainstay of the community on either side of the Canadian border. It employed from 25 to 35 men and even by to-day's standards could be considered as an efficient, well equipped unit, capable of sawing out from 30,000 to 50,000 feet of hardwood lumber per day. In addition to this, moulding and flooring was manufactured, and custom planing done, principally for the Cookshire Lumber Co., of Cookshire, Que. Logs required for the operation were nearby in those days. Some small percentage of these logs were drawn into the millyard by horses from farm woodlots in the area, but the major portion of the log supply came in by railroad, being picked up from sidings to which the logs had been drawn by teams and loaded onto cars. In those times the history-making logging operations of the Van Dykes were at their peak, and hardwood logs from the lands controlled by them made up the important bulk of the supply. The millions of feet of softwood logs which made up the annual cut of the Van Dykes were driven down the Connecticut River to the huge mills in the Holyoke, Mass., area, but prior to the opening of the Comins mills there was no market for hardwood logs which do not float, hence could not be economically delivered to processing points for profitable utilization. Before the Comins mills came onto the scene, hardwood was used as fuel or burned to produce potash for fertilizer.

The George T. Comins Company operated under that name until 1895, when the newly formed Beecher Falls Company succeeded it. It left its mark on the area, however, for the Canadian Port of Entry immediately north of Beecher Falls is still officially known as "Comins Mills."

In May, 1894, a number of people on both sides of the border signed agreements with the George T. Comins Company whereby the latter were to receive gratis specified amounts of labor, logs, and cash if prior to January 1st, 1895, the Comins Company would erect at Beecher Falls a furniture manufacturing plant "at least 300 ft. long by 40 ft. wide and three stories and basement high" and transfer thereto its "business of making chamber suites and bedsteads" then being conducted at Concord, N. H. On December 31st, 1894, a committee of these subscribers certified in writing that the George T. Comins Company or its successors had "done all they agreed to do" and that the committee would be "pleased to contribute as we have agreed to do". This certificate was on a printed letterhead of the Beecher Falls Company and it can be assumed that the George T. Comins Company had been duly succeeded and the Beecher Falls Company was ready to do business.

This original Beecher Falls Company was a New Hampshire corporation, chartered in 1894, for the purpose of taking over the operations of the George T. Comins Company at Beecher Falls and operating the newly constructed furniture factory. The prime mover of the new company was the Hon. Benjamin A. Kimball of Concord, N. H., and his associates in the enterprise were principally bankers and professional people from the Concord-Manchester areas. Mr. Kimball, in addition to being prominent in banking circles was also a high official with the Boston & Maine Railroad. His visits to Beecher Falls were invariably made in a private railroad car which was set off on a siding at Beecher Falls and during its stay the object of awe and admiration for people from miles around. The first manager of the Beecher Falls plant was a retired railroad executive, Mr. W. H. Alexander.

Early in 1895 the Beecher Falls Company started the manufacture of furniture in the new plant, which exceeded its original estimate, being 484 ft. long by 40 ft. wide, but still three stories and basement high. This building still exists being the nucleus of the existing premises and is known to-day as "Building No. 1" or the Finish Machine Room. Most of the machinery with which it had been equipped had been moved from the State Prison at Concord, N. H. The machines had already seen years of service, and some abuse. All of it was belt driven from a main shaft running almost the entire 484 ft. length of the building. This shaft in turn was belted with a huge, 4 ft. wide belt from the impressively massive flywheel of a second-hand Edw. P. Allis steam engine of the Corliss type, which functioned until the early 1950's in a most dependable fashion, if one excepts the crises occasionally engendered by the breaking of the main drive belt. When that happened the entire plant (excluding the sawmill which had its own boiler and engine installation) ceased operating until repairs or replacements had been made. The usefulness of the old engine terminated when all machines had been replaced by modern motor-driven equipment. Finally and with some nostalgic regrets it was reduced to scrap iron in the early 1950's by the junkman's acetylene torch.

The cabinetmaker's craft was a new one for the people of the area, and in order to train them to the trade a number of highly skilled craftsmen were brought in from Grand Rapids, Michigan, to serve as foremen, supervisors, and lead men. Among these were Mr. P. J. Lang, an accomplished woodcarver of German extraction who operated his own business in a wing of the factory, and in addition to supplying the factory with the ornate carvings which were the vogue in those days did a lot of outside work for other furniture plants and made mounting shields for taxidermists throughout the country. Mr. Lang's grandson, Walter Lang of Beecher Falls, is the only local descendant of the Grand Rapids people, all of whom gradually moved away from the area, though many are still remembered by the older residents. One of them, a Mr. Joseph Troost, on his return to Michigan engaged in the furniture retail business, which over the years built up into a sizeable

chain store operation in that state, good customers of the Beecher Falls factory to-day. Mr. Troost, during his short stay in these parts, was foreman of the factory's finishing room.

The type of furniture originally produced followed the vogue of the times. Bed headboards were five and six feet high, festooned with hand carved leaf and floral designs, bunches of grapes, or cherubs in flight. The case pieces - dressers, chests, and the inevitable "commode", went in for serpentine fronts. Much of the furniture was veneered with mahogany with a birch core or center, or was birch finished mahogany. It was then, as it is now, exceptionally well constructed and finished using craft principles inaugurated by the Grand Rapids artisans and many of these principles of construction are still employed as being the best, time-tested methods for which no modern substitute has been devised.

It is hard from our present day viewpoint to believe that people lived - and thrived - on the wage scales then prevalent. Of course, prices of food, clothing, and other necessities were also scaled accordingly and living, in the horse and buggy age was much simpler and uncomplicated. The payroll for the month of March, 1896, for 105 men totalled \$3,459.49. This covered four weeks of six ten hour days per week, at the following rates of pay:

\$3.00 per day for Thomas J. Edwards, plant superintendent. (he had been foreman of construction during the building of the factory).  
 \$1.50 per day for Walter Heath - about the only survivor from those days.  
 \$4.00 per day for K. Nicholson - duties unknown, except that he must have been just about the most important man in the plant.  
 \$3.00 per day for E. O. Carll - the well known Judge of a later time.  
 \$1.00 per day for Robert Lowry - later superintendent of the factory.  
 \$1.50 per day for Napoleon Beloin  
 \$1.00 per day for B. Tillotson  
 42¢ " " " W. Mayberry  
 \$1.08 per day for T. Banfill  
 .25¢ " " " M. Brule  
 \$1.50 per day for Bryan McDonald, later president of the company  
 \$150. per month for G. T. Comins - from the original enterprise.  
 \$125. per month for E. P. Comins - believed to be a salesman for the company.  
 \$130. per month for W. J. Beetham, who was retained as manager of the sawmill, a position he had held with the George T. Comins Company.

Men walked to work from nearby, though for a while the railroad ran special trains morning and night for the convenience of men in West Stewartstown and Canaan. When these were discontinued, men walked from those points or in not too many instances, got to the factory by horse and buggy. This was so for many years, and probably was not entirely discontinued until the mid or late 1920's when improved roads permitted the year 'round use of automobiles.

The factory was lit in a rather dim and ghostly fashion by electricity furnished from a generator belted to the main shaft. A smaller generator similarly driven furnished power for the spray booth exhaust fans, so that in order to run even one spray gun it was necessary for the big steam engine to start up, and the over 400 ft. long shaft to turn, with its miles and miles of idling belts flapping noisily and purposelessly throughout the machine floor. Aside from this there was no electric power in the factory until early 1939 when a 150 kw generator (still in place in the engine room) was belted to the main shaft. The three-phase power line of the Public Service Company was not extended

northward to Beecher Falls and beyond until around 1940, so that this source of electric power was not available to the plant, which steadily added to its own power generating facilities in order that modern high-speed equipment could replace the ancient belt-driven machines as rapidly as finances would permit.

In 1907 fire destroyed the dry kilns and some of the nearby outbuildings. The factory itself was not damaged, that portion of it nearest the blaze being prevented from igniting by draping the outside walls with burlap which was kept soaked by a bucket brigade inside the plant pouring water over the burlap sheets through the windows. In those days much of the furniture was wrapped in excelsior then encased in burlap for shipping, so there was an ample supply of burlap on hand for this emergency use.

It has been noted that Bryan McDonald was an employee of the company in March, 1896. He was a Canadian from the Bury, Quebec, region, and when he first entered the U. S. A. was employed at the Monadnock Hotel in Colebrook. Very shortly afterwards he entered the employ of the Beecher Falls Company as an office boy. He was an ambitious, energetic young man who quickly grasped the details of furniture manufacturing, becoming manager of the business in 1910 when he succeeded W. H. Alexander.

In 1919 the Kimball interests constituting a majority of the stockholders sold their holdings to Messrs. Bryan McDonald, Victor Kelly, and Edgar C. Hirst. Mr. Kelly had been a furniture sales representative in New York where he continued to reside and head up the sales division of the company. Mr. Hirst had been the first New Hampshire State Forester, heading up that department in Concord, N. H., until his connection with the Beecher Falls Company, when he moved to West Stewartstown and served as the company's Treasurer. He is still hale and active in this year of 1962; one of the country's leading authorities in forestry matters and prominent in banking circles in Concord, N. H. Under this administration the company made very substantial progress, becoming nationally recognized for the quality of its product and the superiority of its finish. A great deal of its furniture was painted and hand decorated. Mrs. McDonald headed up the decorating department which at times employed up to forty young women of artistic ability who painted the floral and other designs on the product. This was sold nationally by the leading department and furniture retail stores of the country, and was particularly popular with the better class resort hotels in New Hampshire, Maine, Florida and other areas. Even to-day much of it is still in use in such hotels as The Balsams (which was furnished in 1923); Bretton Woods; Peckett's; Hanover Inn, and a number of still surviving resorts.

The logs required for the operation were cut mainly on lands of the old Van Dyke interests (the Connecticut Valley Lumber Co., or "CVL") then being administered by Stone & Webster of Boston. The areas logged for hardwood were those in New Hampshire immediately bordering Hall's Stream, through the valley of which the Maine Central Railroad meandered northward in Canada. There were no trucks, bulldozers, or the modern equipment of logging in those days. All cutting and hauling had to be done during the winter months when the ground was frozen and snow covered, permitting the use of horses and sleds in the woods and for the hauling of the yarded logs to the nearest railroad sidings for re-yarding and loading onto cars for shipment to Beecher Falls. The major shipping points were Birchton, Clifton, and Malvina, all in Quebec. South of Malvina the logs were loaded onto large sleds, which were formed into trains of six or eight sleds and drawn to the factory sawmill by huge Lombard tractors which operated night and day during the hauling season. The road used by these tractors bordered Hall's Stream. Traces of it still remain to this day, and are even now referred to as the "old log hauler road." Much of it has been

reactivated in recent years, as part of the access and hauling road of the St. Regis Company for that section of their holdings. Some of the logs came from privately owned woodlots and these were drawn to the factory by horses over roads which in those days were not plowed but packed down with huge wooden rollers filled with rocks and drawn by the town teams. There were a few automobiles and small trucks in the area but these were put up on jacks in the fall and kept there until after "mud time" - a term which then had full significance as roads were not surfaced and during early spring were just about impassable for any kind of wheeled traffic, being literally knee deep in mud.

Because the log cutting agreement with the C. V. L. Co. called for the removal of several species of hardwood, some unsuited to the production of furniture, the Beecher Falls Company also operated a bobbin mill located about where the present Rough Mill now stands. A certain amount of ash was used to produce low priced summer cottage furniture and writing desks. These were finished in "Flemish Oak" or "Golden Oak." Basswood was resawn into thin sheets and on the lower priced furniture was used for drawer bottoms. The factory also sold lumber in the open market, and produced a large quantity of heavy dowels for shipment to the wicker furniture manufacturers, principally in Ohio, though much of this dowel production was shipped to Island Pond where Messrs. McDonald, Kelly, and Hirst had a substantial interest in the now extinct Brighton Furniture Company, manufacturers of fibre furniture. This resembled wicker furniture in appearance. However, instead of wicker twisted paper was wrapped around a flexible wire core which was then hand woven onto the frames of chairs, sofas, etc. The product was sold in conjunction with that from Beecher Falls and like the latter was most durable. Much of it still to be seen in use in some of the resort hotels already mentioned as well as in homes and cottages nearby.

In 1921 W. J. Morrissey entered the employ of the company as a cost accountant being hired for that purpose by Mr. Hirst in Boston, Morrissey's first landfall in the U. S. A. when he came here from Newfoundland. He was with the company until March, 1924, when he joined several men from the factory to go to a newly opened furniture plant in New York State. Among these were Karl Lang (son of the P. J. Lang earlier mentioned; Ed Kelly, brother of Everett Kelly; Ernest Smith, Mrs. Stanley ("Bill") Hann's uncle; and Francis Favreau, who at the time was assistant finishing room foreman.

In 1923 the business suffered its severest loss in the death of Bryan McDonald, then in his early 50's. The surviving associates, Messrs. Hirst and Kelly, with Mrs. McDonald, continued the operation of the business as successfully as heretofore but without the enthusiastic and whole hearted interest which had always characterized Mr. McDonald's approach to the affairs of the company, and which had made him one of the most admired and respected individuals in the whole industry.

Early in 1924 fire of devastating proportions destroyed the large sawmill and some four million feet of lumber piled in the yard. Again the factory itself was miraculously spared because of the prevailing wind direction and the superhuman efforts of fire departments which had been called in from as far away as Lancaster and Sherbrooke. The heat from the fire was so intense that cars parked on the Hall's Stream Road, almost half a mile from the blaze, had the body paint blistered. The air was filled with blazing boards carried upward by the fire's draft, so that for some considerable distance around the area people were busy extinguishing the blazing and smouldering boards as they returned to earth. The sawmill was never rebuilt to anything like its original capacity, and for the time being its lumber needs were taken care of by nearby Canadian mills, principally those operated by Wally & Son who had its nearest mill in the neighboring Hereford valley.

In February, 1925, the Beecher Falls Company of 1894 origin, sold out to the newly formed Beecher Falls Company, Incorporated, a Massachusetts corporation headed by a Mr. E. Clarke of Boston, who appointed Mr. C. E. Skerry to the active management of the business. The McDonald family moved to Rockford, Illinois. Mr. E. C. Hirst shortly thereafter entered the banking business in Concord, N. H., where for many years he was president of the First National Bank of Concord, and is now Chairman of the Board of that institution. Mr. Victor Kelly retained his connection with the company for a few years, as head of its New York sales office, and then retired because of ill health.

About that time a decided change in the local logging scene came about. Lands of the Connecticut Valley Lumber Co. were sold to the St. Regis Company who also acquired the lands and plant of the New Hampshire Stave & Heading Co. of North Stratford, N. H., where they had among other facilities a large, modern bandmill. The St. Regis Company made an arrangement with the Plunkett-Webster Lumber Co. of New Rochelle, N. Y., whereby the latter acquired exclusive cutting rights for the hardwood on the St. Regis limits and the operation of the mill at North Stratford. This arrangement eliminated for the time being the major source of supply for hardwood logs required by the Beecher Falls factory which had replaced the mill destroyed by fire in 1924 with a small, circular sawmill capable only of producing a portion of its lumber requirements, but as it developed, ample for the supply of logs available from nearby privately held woodlots. Log supply from more distant points was still limited by poor roads, and the independent jobbers who later appeared on the logging scene had not yet come into the picture with their trucks, bulldozers, and other logging equipment. Consequently the major portion of the factory's lumber needs continued to be supplied by Canadian lumber dealers for the most part.

The entire furniture industry was also undergoing change, and there were many developments not sensed by the factory's management until it was too late. For one thing the demand for painted and decorated furniture was rapidly declining. Many fast, motor driven woodworking machines were being developed, but the factory was unable to set aside from its dwindling revenue the money needed for purchase of the equipment required to change the nature of their product, and to remain competitive. The machines were still belt driven from the long main shaft. Many of them were those which had been transferred from Concord State Prison in 1889 and 1894, so antiquated that they belonged in a museum rather than in a fiercely competitive industry. There were several machines bearing date plates going back 75 to 90 years. Consequently when the depression of 1929 occurred the business, already weak and shaky, was ill-prepared to undertake the fight for existence which was lost by many of its better off and more aggressive competitors. On March 1st, 1932, it was declared bankrupt and its inventory at the time liquidated under the receivership of C. E. Skerry. Within a few weeks it was completely idle and those of its people who could find work elsewhere moved away, many of them never to return. Those who remained saw the old plant gradually deteriorate, but never gave up hoping that some day it would reopen and the blast of its deep-toned whistle would again be heard at 5.30 a. m.

These hopes appeared to be realized in late 1934, when the Beecher Falls Furniture Company, Inc., newly formed and headed by T. Ashley Dent of New York purchased the plant from the U. S. Bankruptcy Court and re-opened it with the help of funds raised by mortgaging it to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which for the benefit of those whose memories do not go back that far was a Federal agency created during the depression years for the purpose of bolstering the hard hit economy of the country. W. J. Morrissey, who had been in Mr. Dent's employ in one of the latter's several furniture plants, returned to Beecher Falls as secretary of the newly formed corporation. The cost of preparing



for operation buildings and equipment which had lain idle and unheated through two north country winters exceeded to an alarming degree any amount which had been anticipated and provided for. This combined with the handicap of antiquated machinery plus the low ebb of business during depression years resulted in the plant closing once again in October, 1935 and the RFC taking possession.

However, the plant had been re-opened; there had been employment and hope had been restored to the area. There were many who firmly believed that it could be reopened on a permanent basis, so that when Mr. Paul B. Davis appeared on the scene early in 1936 for the purpose of promoting a new company with the reopening of the plant as its objective, he found many who were ready and willing to gamble their limited resources in the venture. On February 16th, 1936, the present Beecher Falls Manufacturing Corporation was duly chartered by the State of Vermont with Parker W. Tabor as its President; John H. Finley, Vice-President; and Paul B. Davis, General Manager. Other officers and directors were Mrs. Lena Beecher and Walter L. Heath. The amount of \$17,697.74 had been raised in cash, out of which a down payment of \$8,333.33 was made to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. This left a most insignificant balance for the purpose of re-opening the plant, acquiring its opening inventory of lumber and other supplies, so that when finally all was in readiness for the wheels to turn the new company was already deep in debt. However, in some inexplicable fashion the plant was kept operating even though there were weeks in which its men accepted company I. O. U's in lieu of the cash which the company did not have for their wages. By February 27th, 1937, the company's current assets were \$37,419.81 and its liabilities \$80,937.24, so that factually the business was then insolvent. In May, 1937, Paul B. Davis resigned as manager and W. J. Morrissey came from Grand Rapids, Michigan, to replace him. The T. Baumritter Co., furniture distributors in New York, had been appointed exclusive sales agent for the factory's product in September, 1936, and its then Treasurer, Nat S. Ancell, had already made substantial cash advances to Beecher Falls against unfilled orders.

It became increasingly evident that without plant rehabilitation of some sort, even to a limited degree, the business could not make much progress; that even experienced management and excellent sales organization could not overcome the handicap of outdated, outworn, and inefficient machinery. Only by paying wages below those prevalent in the industry could further financial deterioration be prevented, and this certainly could not be pursued as a long range policy. The directors of the company did not have the personal means for the additional investment called for and needed for new machines. In some manner or other it had come about that the majority of the common stock of the company had been issued to a party who had not invested even a single red penny in the business so there was nothing to offer anyone interested in putting up the cash required for new machinery. Consequently, during the summer of 1938 an internal reorganization was brought about which among other things resulted in the return to the company of the common stock referred to. A portion of this was purchased at its par value (its book value was less than zero) by Messrs. Theo Baumritter, N. S. Ancell, and to a lesser degree, W. J. Morrissey, who was made president of the company in 1939, a position still held by him. The influx of new money was used to immediately undertake a program of rehabilitation, starting with the modernizing of existing kilns; the building of a large progressive type dry kiln in line with the sawmill; installation of electric generators so that modern, motor driven machinery could be planned for.

In 1939 the now nationally famous line of Ethan Allen Colonial Furniture was introduced and immediately met with an excellent reception by the trade. In fact, the demand for it eventually exceeded the capacity of Beecher Falls so that in 1962 eight of the Baumritter controlled plants in various parts of the country are engaged in its production. Three of these plants are in Vermont, employing

from 800 to 850 people, with combined payrolls of over \$4,000,000. per year. This significant contribution to the economy of the state can be directly attributed to the successful solution of the problems which confronted Beecher Falls during the first few years of the present operation.

The outbreak of the war in 1941 curtailed the production of all civilian goods and the factory could produce only the amount of domestic furniture consistent with the lumber usage allowed for civilian purposes, never beyond a volume which would interfere with the fulfilment of its military contracts. These covered a wide range of product - cook's tables, barracks furniture, ordnance bins, hospital furniture, non-magnetic trays for use in some phase of the atomic bomb development, ship's furniture, and many other items for military use. During the war many women were employed in the factory on operations traditionally performed by men, and proved their ability to perform equally as well, sometimes better.

On June 15th, 1943, a cloudburst brought about a flood which inundated the sawmill, lumber yard, and factory basement in which was stored supplies exceeding \$50,000. in value. These were rendered worthless for the most part. Some hardware was salvaged when the men and women of the plant spent several days washing it in oil. At the peak of the flood the entire factory was surrounded by water, so that it was possible to row a boat completely around the buildings. One of the unforgettable sights on the morning after the flood was that of Neal Bohan calling on his youthful experiences as a river driver with the Van Dykes to ride the logs which were floating around the building and with a driver's pike pole work them out of the current so that they would not be carried down the Connecticut River. The mud and silt left by the receding waters required several days of shovelling by everyone capable of doing so, from Nat Ancell on. It never was completely removed. One still finds little mounds of it on top of a beam in the basement, and for a year or two afterwards lumber which had been piled in the yard gave off clouds of grimy dust when it was processed through the rough mill.

One of the most serious results of the flood, however, was the demolition of the railroad for eight miles, practically to Colebrook, and heavy damage to the railroad bridge across the Connecticut River at West Stewartstown. The damage was so extensive in nature and required such a considerable outlay to repair that for a few days at least there was some question as to whether the Maine Central would undertake the project, and there was much talk of their moving rail head south to Colebrook, eight miles distant. Mr. Lawrence Whittemore, then president of the Maine Central Railroad, accompanied by his engineering staff, made a special trip to Beecher Falls to survey the damage and to personally appraise the situation of the factory and its prospects of recuperating from the losses it had sustained. While these were bad enough, they had been greatly exaggerated to him. It was with immense relief that it was learned the railroad would restore service; any decision by them to the contrary would have meant the end of the Beecher Falls operation. However, it was not until October of 1943 that full service was again available. In the intervening four months the factory trucked its output to Colebrook, and as restoration progressed northward, to West Stewartstown for loading on railroad cars.

Immediately after the war the rehabilitation program was resumed. Entirely new dry kilns of steel and brick construction were built, and the very latest type of automatic drying equipment installed. The new kilns had a holding capacity of 240,000 feet of lumber (equivalent to 16 railroad carloads) and could dry inch lumber down for furniture use in three to four days from an air dried state. Storage and tempering sheds for kiln dried lumber were erected. The yard layout was changed to permit of automation, and the old white horses which for years had faithfully plodded their way through the lumber piles hauling lumber to the old dry kilns, were sold. The small circular sawmill which had been built to replace

the original mill destroyed by fire in 1924 gave way to a two storey steel frame structure housing a small but efficient bandmill of Belgian make. New boilers and new steam engine-generators were installed. A number of new machines were purchased, all of latest design and utmost efficiency.

On June 30th, 1947, Marshall Ames started with the company as assistant to W. J. Morrissey, and on June 1st, 1961, Marshall was made executive Vice-President and Plant Manager, the position he currently holds.

In 1956 what had been the old bobbin mill was razed and on site it occupied, as well as partly on the site of the wooden progressive dry kiln which formerly adjoined the sawmill, now stands the completely conveyORIZED Rough Mill housed in a Butler steel building.

It was in 1956 also that the various furniture manufacturing corporations in which the Baumritter interests predominated were consolidated by exchanging stock of these corporations for that of the Baumritter Corporation. The resulting combine's annual production volume made it the fourth largest industry of its type in the U. S. A. It is by far the country's largest producer of Early American furniture. The operation at Beecher Falls was Baumritter's first venture into the manufacturing phase of the furniture industry, and it was due to the successful outcome at that point that other acquisitions were made from time to time.

In 1962 a firewall was erected bi-secting the original wooden building erected in 1894. Also under construction in 1962 is the first 150 ft. section of what is to be a 450 ft. warehouse, shipping area, and completely conveyORIZED Finishing Room. The shipping floor will open onto an enclosed platform and shed in which railroad cars will be spotted. This structure will be steel frame and cement block.

Since the reopening of the plant in 1936, employment has increased from 45 people to 360. Lumber usage has increased from 15,000 feet per week to 145,000 feet. Financial condition changed from insolvency in 1936 to the current condition of quick assets three times more than total liabilities. The equipment which in 1936 was a sorry collection of relics has been replaced by the most modern and efficient machinery of its type, with additions thereto being constantly planned. In 1936 there was little on which to base optimism, or which on its face held much encouragement for an investor. However, there was an asset of incalculable value not shown on its books, and this was the indomitable spirit of the men in the plant. Their tenacity and resolve in the face of difficulties and drawbacks which would have subdued the less courageous was so evident to those who ultimately supplemented their own efforts with the financing needed for rehabilitation, that outweighed was the all too evident fact that the plant and equipment had little or nothing to recommend it in those days, other than a reputation of many years' standing for a highly dependable product. If it were appropriate for an industry to have a high-sounding motto, Beecher Falls earned the right to adopt as its motto "Ad astra per aspera" which loosely translated means "You get there the hard way."

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SUPPLEMENTARY.

Copy of the agreement signed in 1894 with the George T. Comins Company:

WHEREAS, the George T. Comins Company, heretofore carrying on the business of making chamber suites and bedsteads in Concord, N. H., is considering the advisability of removing said business to Beecher Falls, in the Town of Canaan, Vermont, or disposing of its business to a successor who will so remove it and continue the same, manufacturing at Beecher Falls, which business will require the location at Beecher Falls of all the general offices, the building of a factory at least 300 feet long and 40 feet wide, and three stories and basement high, and equipping the same with the machinery heretofore used at Concord, or with other suitable machinery, to carry on the same business;

NOW, FOR THE PURPOSE of inducing said company or its successors to remove said business to Beecher Falls, and in consideration of the benefit which we shall severally receive thereby, we the undersigned do severally mutually agree with the George T. Comins Company and its successors (if any) and with each other, that if said business shall be so removed, and if said company or its successors shall build said factory and equip the same with suitable machinery as aforesaid, and shall establish their general offices at Beecher Falls, all for the purpose of continuing said business of making chamber suites and bedsteads and for the additional purpose of making hardwood flooring, all before the 1st day of January, 1895, we will pay to said George T. Comins Company, or its successors, the sums of money, or deliver to it or them the property specified opposite our respective names, payment of money to be made, or property to be furnished, at reasonable times between January 1st and May 1st, 1895.

If the business and general offices shall not be removed, the factory built, equipped, and running prior to January 1st, 1895, our agreements here made shall be void.

Our signatures to the printed copies of this agreement shall have the same effect as though each subscriber had signed the same agreement.

May, 1894.

Dolphi A. Inkiel	25M Logs	Delivered Paquetteville siding
Gendreau Bros.	10M	Gendreau's siding
Olivier Lambert	5M	East Hereford siding
Adelard Paquette	4M	Beecher Falls
Wm. F. Johnson	5M	Laughton siding
Abraham Noel	4M	Beecher Falls
Ferdinand Daigle	5M	Laughton siding
Olivier Rancloes	5M	Laughton siding
Desire Thibeault	5M	Laughton siding
Suplien Loisselle	5M	Laughton siding
Theophile Pariseau	5M	Laughton siding
Arthur Dupuis	5M	Laughton siding
Hermidas Lestage	5M	Laughton siding
Napoleon Beloin	4M	Laughton siding
Alex Chaloux	10M	Laughton siding
Jerry Chicoine	5M	Laughton siding
A. Choquette	5M	Proposed siding below Paquetteville
Olivier Chicoine	5M	Proposed siding below Paquetteville
Napoleon Adam	\$25.00	
W. St. Cyr	8M	Paquetteville siding
Damasse Larochelle	8M	Paquetteville siding

SUPPLEMENTARY.

Copy of the agreement signed in 1894 with the George T. Comins Company (Cont'd):

Francois Rousselle	5M	Proposed siding
Jean-Baptiste Daigneau	5M	do.
'Pit Chaloux	5M	do.
Toussaint Adams	5M	do.
Louis A. Riendeau	5M	do.
George Lachappelle	10M	do
Alfred Adam	15M	Terrill's Cut
Albert Champeau	10M	Proposed siding
Francois Adam	2M	Proposed siding
H. E. Hodge	5M	Lawton's siding
Olivier pivin	5M	do
Entime Beauchemin	5M	Gravel pit siding
Joseph Beauchemin	4M	do
Frank Viau	5M	do
Theophile Beauchemin	5M	do
Delphis Duranleau	5M	do
Theophile Paquette	6M	Paquetteville siding
William Paquette	8M	Terrill's cut siding
Celestine Duranleau	5M	do
Veuve Augustine Lamoureux	5M	do
Solomon Duranleau	5M	do
Philip Duranleau	5M	do
Eugibbe Pariseau	5M	do
Joseph Pariseau	5M	do
C. Hebert et fils	5M	2 years St. Malo
Cesaire Hebert	2M	2 years St. Malo
Joseph Perrais	5M	St. Malo
Napoleon Duranleau	5M	Terrill's cut
George Foucher	5M	Dan Heath siding
Joseph Fortin	5M	do
J. B. Paradis	5M	do
George Lacroix	5M	Auckland siding
I. B. Corbeil	4M	do
J. A. Roy	5M	Dan Heath siding
Moses T. Roy	1M	Malvina
Jerry Lapalle	4M	do
Omer Inkiel	3M	do 2 years
Eugene Inkiel	2M	do 2 years
Flavien Lapalle	2M	do 2 years
Joseph Lemieux	10M	St. Malo
George Beloin	2M	do
Joseph Gagnon	1M	do
Xavier Boire	2M	do
A. Dube	1M	do
Joseph Boutin	5M	do
Osiasse Boutin	2M	do
Henri Roy	1M	do
H. D. Gagnon	1M	do
Andre Gagnon (pere)	1M	do
Edmond Gagnon	2M	do
Charles Boire	2M	do
I. G. Tangeau	1M spruce	do
Ernest Roy	1M	do
Modiste Boire	1M	do 2 years
Pierre Cartier	3M	Proposed siding below Paquetteville

SUPPLEMENTARY.

Copy of the agreement signed in 1894 with the George T. Comins Company (Cont'd):

L. Pepin	1M	Proposed siding below Paquetteville
Z. Lachance	3M	do
William Lefebvre	2M	do
Moise Riendeau	3M	do
Napoleon Paquette	3M	Gravel pit siding
Joseph Gregoire	1M	do
Aristide Fortin	2M	Proposed siding
Jean-Babtiste Thibeault	2M	Paquetteville siding
Raymond Fortin	1M	do
Joseph Pariseau	2M	do
Pierre Demarais	1M spruce	St. Malo
Pete Perras	3M	do 2 years
E. O. Duroche	1M	Malvina siding 2 years
Theophile Lapalle	1M	Malvina siding
Jean-Baptiste Roy	1M	St. Malo siding
Milien Rougeau	1M	do
Gustave Rougeau	1M	do
Narcisse Bisailion	2M	Lawton's siding
Peter Dupuis	2M	do
Narcisse Belojn	2M	do
J. B. Landry	2M	do 2 years
D. Lefebvre	4M	'Quand je leur vendre' Proposed siding
Ernest Deragon	2M	Lawton's siding
C. Grenier	3M	do
David Deragon	5M	Gravel pit siding
Napoleon Gendreau	5M	'Quand je le 'charire' - Gravel pit siding
Robert Bartholomew	5M HW logs	Half this winter; balance next.
James A. Hurley	6M	do do
Henry Thompson	5M	do do
Hiram Waldron	5M	do do
Charles Bisson	5M	do do
Sam Elliott	5M	do do
Robert Taylor	5M	do do
James Prince	5M	do do
Henry Clifford	10M	do do
A. E. Thompson	5M	do do
Alfred McVetty	5M	do do
Joseph McVetty	5M	do do
Albert McRay	5M	do do
David Cairns	5M	do do
Hosea Blais	3M	Delivered coming winter
Gilbert Hough	\$10.00	
James Forararie	3M	Half this winter; balance next
Albert Waldron	3M	Delivered coming winter
T. Williams	2M	do
Maurice Taylor	5M	do
Hugh Law	3M	do
J. B. Hopkins	20M	Provided there is that much on the lot.
W. W. Young	20M	
Adelson Chose	5M	Delivered at Beecher Falls
George W. Dearth	10M	2 winters to haul 5M each winter
J. Brainard	10M	do do
John O. Hall & brother	10M	5M each winter
E. J. Johnson	10M	do
E. B. Luther	10M	Delivered at mill
C. H. Hodge	20M	10M each winter

SUPPLEMENTARY.

Copy of the agreement signed in 1894 with the George T. Comins Company (Cont'd)

Amanda J. Hurlburt	6M	Delivered at mill
Benjamin Fellows	5M	do-
Bert S. Young	5M	do
Samuel Parsons	4M	do
Ira A. Grover	5M	do
L. G. Piper	5M	do
L. G. Piper	5M	do
Richard R. Dailey	5M	Delivered in '95 or '96
George H. Chamberlin	5M	Delivered at mill
J. A. Perry	5M	do
Frank Richards	5M	do
Horace Wells	5M	do
William Dearth	15M	do
William Wells	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ M	do
Edward Favreau	5M	do
William McKeague	5M	do. $\frac{1}{2}$ each winter
Clarke Haynes	5M	Delivered at mill.
John Heath	5M	do
J. W. Wheeler	5M	Delivered at gravel pit.
Henry Knapp	5M	Delivered at mill.
Frank Kingsley	10M	Half each winter
Ernest Tillotson	10M	do
W. R. Wheeler	5M	do
R. A. Tabor	8M	do
Jerry N. Young	3M	do
Melvin Lawton	8M	do
Warren B. Hammond	2M	Delivered at mill
Amos H. Tewksbury	2M	do
Andrew Grover	2M	do
Levi Brooks	1M	do
John G. Hurlburt	1M	do
E. R. Trask	2M	do
E. A. Heath	1M	do
Slater Beecher	5M	do
S. Kidder	5M	do
J. Wheeler	5M	do
Keezar	10M	do
Crawford	1M	do
T. Lambert	5M	do
E. Levine	5M	do
George M. Stevens & Son	\$100.	
Thompson Mfg. Co.	\$100.	
L. F. Moore	\$ 50.	
George Van Dyke	\$1,000.	
Clement & Beecher	\$1,000.	
Emma J. Heath	\$ 250.	
T. H. Van Dyke	\$ 500.	
W. B. Cook	75M (\$562.50).	
Edwin Bean	40M	To be hauled in two years

Copy of agreement signed in 1894 with George T. Comins Company, whereby labor and other services were to be donated:

In consideration of the benefit which I shall receive if the George T. Comins Company, or its successors in business, shall remove the business and general offices of said company to Beecher Falls, Vermont, and build a factory at least 300 feet long and 40 feet wide, I agree with said company and its successors to work free of charge the number of days set opposite my name, in helping to build said factory prior to January 1st, 1895.

Fred Bailey	12 days
Charles Peterson	6 "
Henry Morrow	12 "
Peter Flaherty	12 "
Frank Fuller	12 "
Joseph Belanger	12 "
Freeman Lapalm	12 " (provided he gets work all winter)
Mike Gleason	12 days
Cyrus E. Fletcher	Two weeks on boiler, and boarded. (Helping to set them \$30.)
John Rowell	2 weeks work and board \$16.80.
George Lapointe	2 weeks \$25.
Charlie Stevenson	2 weeks \$25.
Fred Pratt	In cash \$25.
H. B. Day	2 weeks \$12.
Ben Tillotson	2 weeks \$15.
Robert McKeague	2 weeks \$16.80
H. T. Sweatt	2 weeks \$21.
C. L. Felton	2 weeks \$16.80
John E. Terrill	In labor sawing \$37.50
Napoleon Gendreau	2 weeks \$30.
Thomas H. Clarke	2 weeks \$16.80
L. A. Kingsley	2 weeks \$24.
H. K. Heath	3 weeks \$16.
A. J. Heath	In labor \$27.
Burton Owen	1 week \$18.
A. Lambert	2 weeks \$16.80
Dan Day	9 days with team \$27.
John Martel	2 weeks \$16.80
Joe Johnson	2 weeks \$24.
A. Fenton	2 weeks \$16.80
L. A. Dearth	2 weeks \$24.
F. W. Pearson	1 week masonry \$18.
Charles E. Brown	2 weeks \$21.
Nelson Beloin	2 weeks \$16.80
Clovis S. Beloin	23½ days \$35.
Ezra Knapp	2 weeks \$18.
E. A. Lyford	20 days \$50.
William H. Gray	6 days \$12.
Eugene W. Chase	weeks (2) \$16.80
W. Booth	3 weeks \$49.50
W. H. Morse	2 weeks \$21.
A. Couture	2 weeks \$16.80
A. E. Biron	2 weeks \$16.80
E. W. Mills	2 weeks \$16.80
B. R. Marshall	1 week \$12.
Ed Lemieux	Logs
Philip Boivin	2 weeks \$16.80



SUPPLEMENTARY.

Continuation of agreement signed with George T. Comins Company in 1894, whereby labor and other services were to be donated:

Norman Betts	1 week work with team \$18.
John Johnson	do do
Joseph Moss	2 weeks \$27.
Walter Johnson	2 weeks \$ 9.24
Napoleon Woods	15 days \$30.
Frank Dailey	15 days \$30.
Frank Haynes	In cash \$25.
Charles Luther	1 week with team \$18.
A. B. McPheters	do do
C. H. Gray	2 days with team \$6.
George Barrett	9 days with team \$27.
E. Vincent	In cash \$25.
A. Pariseau	2 weeks in labor \$16.80
Wm. Thompson	\$25. in labor
F. Covell	1 week \$9.
Henry Johnson	3 days with team \$9.
Moise Duquette	2 weeks \$16.80
Isidore Thibeault	2 weeks \$16.80
W. E. Heath	1 week carpenter work \$12.
Jerry Perry	3 days with team \$9.
E. M. Frizzell	2 weeks \$27.
Horace Davis	1 week \$10.
Wilman J. Young	2 days with team \$6.
James Hall	2 weeks \$16.80
James Hart	2 weeks \$16.80
John W. Kingsley	3 days with team \$9.
Edward Haynes	1 week \$12.
Joseph Loiselle	1 week \$12.
L. Covell	2 weeks \$16.80
Hiram Wells	In cash \$25.
George Vancore	2 weeks \$16.80
Ernest Noel	2 weeks work \$15.
David Beloin	2 weeks work \$15.
Cyprien Commet	2 weeks work \$16.80
Demas Deragon	2 weeks \$16.80
Joseph Simard	2 weeks \$16.80
Lucien Simard	2 weeks work \$16.80
Zephirin Lachance	2 weeks work \$16.80
Barthelme Pepin	2 weeks work standard rate \$16.80
Joel Richardson	3 weeks \$25.
Albert Taylor	2 weeks \$16.80
J. A. Rogers	2 weeks \$24.
Frank Tibbetts	1 week \$12.
William Leavitt, Colebrook	2 weeks \$24.
Adolphus Lemay "	2 weeks \$24.
Sam'l T. Brunelle, Wallis Pond	2 weeks \$24.
S. W. Thibeault " "	2 weeks \$24.
John Champeau	2 weeks \$16.80
Peter Chaloux	2 weeks \$16.80
William Holton	\$16.80

SUPPLEMENTARY

Copy of certificate signed by a committee of donors (see pages 10 through 15):

Beecher Falls, Vermont,  
December 31st, 1894.

George T. Comins, Mgr  
Beecher Falls Company  
Successors to George T. Comins Co.

We the undersigned subscribers to the contribution fund to the George T. Comins Company or its successors, for building shops at Beecher Falls, Vermont, have this day inspected the engine and boiler rooms, office, shops with its large amount of machinery, and we take pleasure in certifying that the George T. Comins Company or its successors have done all they agreed to do and that we, each of us, will be pleased to contribute as we have agreed to do.

W. B. Cook  
Clement & Beecher  
Joseph Lemieux  
O. Aube  
Napoleon Adam  
George F. Gendreau  
Alex Chaloux  
H. Pepin  
G. M. Stevens & Son  
Artemus Ward  
Dopli Inkiel  
Wilfrid Adam  
Fred Pratt  
Pierre Cartier  
W. W. Young  
Benoit Pepin  
R. H. Spencer  
N. W. Beecher  
Joseph Pariseau  
Joseph Gagnon  
J. C. H. Rangeau  
David Favreau  
George S. Hurley  
Willie H. Morse

SUPPLEMENTARYPay of men in sawmill 1895:

Filer	\$4.50 per day	Millwright	\$2.50 per day
Fireman	\$1.50	Yard boss	1.75
Log man	1.50	Band resaw	1.40
Scaler	1.35	Slab saw	1.50
Tailer	1.19	Watchman	1.50
Slab wheeler	1.35	Sawyer	2.50
Engineer	1.75	Sticker	1.42
Rollaway	1.35	Boss sticker	1.25
Truckloaders	2.50		

Preferred stockholders of the Beecher Falls Company, 1896:

Benj. A. Kimball	\$10,000.	H. H. Dudley	\$5,000.
G. E. Shepard	5,000.	L. A. Carter	2,500.
L. Andrews	1,000.	W. Carr	1,000.
L. A. Stillings	1,000.	John Kimball	5,000.
F. S. Streeter	5,000.	L. F. Webster	2,500.
Stearns & Son	1,500.	James Minot	1,000.
G. Story	1,000.	W. J. Beetham	2,500.
L. Bareks	6,000.		

Directors of Beecher Falls Company, 1900:

B. A. Kimball	George E. Shepard	John Kimball
H. H. Stevens	Frank Streeter	H. H. Dudley
John F. Webster	W. H. Alexander	E. P. Comins

SUPPLEMENTARY.

Stock subscription form signed by subscribers to the Beecher Falls Manufacturing Corporation, prior to its incorporation in February, 1936.

BEECHER FALLS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

Proposed capitalization: 450 shares non-voting Preferred Stock, Par Value \$100. each, preferred as to dividends at the rate of 5% per annum, payable semi-annually, non-cumulative, callable at par, and preferred in liquidation.

1,000 shares no par voting common stock to be placed in a voting trust agreement for ten years, full paid and non-assessable.

STOCK SUBSCRIPTION.

Paul B. Davis, Esquire  
Beecher Falls, Vermont.

Dear Sir,

I, the undersigned do hereby subscribe for \_\_\_\_\_ units of the Capital Stock of the above named proposed corporation, each unit to consist of one share of Preferred Stock and one voting trust certificate, representing one share of No Par Common Stock, and I agree to pay therefor the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ hundred dollars as follows:

I further agree that said purchase price be deposited by you in an account with the Colebrook National Bank of Colebrook, N. H., and that said account may be drawn upon by you for the following purposes:

1. To pay for the interim expense of maintaining and operating the furniture factory at Beecher Falls, Vermont, which is to be acquired by the proposed corporation, including the purchase of raw materials.
2. To pay the necessary expenses including counsel fees of organizing the proposed corporation.
3. To pay for the acquisition of said factory in behalf of said proposed corporation.
4. To turn over the balance in said account to said proposed corporation upon its organization to be used by it for corporate purposes.

Upon the organization of said corporation you are authorized to assign this stock subscription to it and the stock certificates called for by this subscription are to be delivered to me as soon as possible thereafter.

Yours very truly,

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 1936.

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the above.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

List of the original stockholders of the Beecher Falls Manufacturing Corporation as of its date of incorporation in February, 1936.

	<u>No. of shares</u>		<u>No. of shares</u>
Parker W. Tabor	10	Edward H. Paquette	5
Joseph Gregoire	1	Henry Duff	1
Walter L. Heath	5	Mrs. Lena Beecher	5
Rose F. Chaloux	2	M. Haynes	1
Jerry Terrill, Sr.	1	Paul Martin	2
Charles Chaloux	1	Neal Bohan	2
J. H. Finley	10	Jerry Terrill, Jr.	1
Emil Paquette	2	Gertrude Bowler	3
Joseph Simard	3	Ed Simard	1
J. W. Gagnon	2	Leonard Duranleau	1
Antonio Tetreault	1	Wilfred Thibeault	2
E. Noel	1	Emile Marchesseault	1
W. W. Lakin	5	Clayton Terrill	1
Frank Marshall	2	Harvey Hall	2
George Currier	5	Ed Haynes	3
Willie C. Prehemo	1	Arthur Condon	1
Hazen Blakely	1	Robert Blakely	5
Arnold M. Jackson	1	Arleigh Bassett	1

25 YEARS AGO. ON PAYROLL NOVEMBER, 1937.

Walter Lakin	Fred Harding	Charles Haynes	Nelson Duquette
Guy Haynes	Wendell Lakin	John Jewell	Harry Hawes
Neil Bohan	Nelson Beloin	Archie Goodreau	Leon Goodreau
Zephir Beloin	Arthur Goodreau	Raph Joyce	Herbert Hawes
Arthur Condon	Joe Gregoire	Jerry Terrill, Sr.	Albert Beloin
Gaston Bergeron	Ernest Wheeler	Willis Meisner	Richard Farrow
Wesley Mills	Emile Therrien	Lewis Swain	Joseph Noel
Rufus Day	George Pariseau	Clarence Meiggs	A. R. Boulay
Harley Bunnell	Maurice Young	Herb Joyce	Eddie Haynes
George Thibeault	Gerard Cote	Fred Pelchat	Ed Sweeney
Murray Haynes	Richard LaPointe	A. Brunelle	Neal Perry
Vic Bowler	Wheat Cook	Alcide Bergeron	Arthur Lanctot
George Lachance	Albert Lachance	Ernest Lapointe	Clark Brunelle
Jerry Terrill, Jr.	Everett Crawford	Lloyd Paquette	Dave Perry
W. A. Richardson	George Bigelow	Fred Leonard	Joe Thibeault
Oliva Therrien	George Gilbert	Amede Thibeault	Stewart Covell
Leonard Kingsley	Zephir Bergeron	Edwin Dwinell	Henry Kingsley
Herman Lachance	Felix Lachance	Claude Heath	Henry Duff
Lewis Carr	Everett Kelly	Earl Kelly	Burns Paquette
Leon Brown	Leo Simard	George Allen	Edward Simard
Frank Lefebvre	Rodney Bacon	Camille Thibeault	Armand Duranleau
Joe Couturier	Geraldine	Paul Martin	Henry Lachance
Wilfred St. James	Duranleau	Omer Lachance	Antoine Tetreault
Henri Bouchard	Tom Beloin	Adelard Marquis	Nate Duranleau
Joseph Molleur	Len Duranleau	Euclid Martin	Wilf Pariseau
Amede Dube	Joe Chaloux	Arleigh Bassett	Isidore Lemieux
Homer Hawes	Lynn Newell	Rudolph Lachance	Wilf Thibeault
Mose Goodreau	Walter Heath		

(Hourly Rates ranged from 22¢ to 40¢)

SUPPLEMENTARY.Significant dates in history of the plant at Beecher Falls:

- 1885-87. Railroad completed to Beecher Falls, where it connected with the Hereford Railroad, which at Cookshire had a junction with the Canadian Pacific and at Quebec Junction connected with Quebec Central.
1889. George T. Comins Company of Concord, N. H., built a large sawmill at Beecher Falls.
1894. Beecher Falls Company, a New Hampshire chartered corporation, completed erection of a furniture factory and took over the mill of the Geo. T. Comins Company.
1907. Fire destroyed dry kilns and several outbuildings but factory unharmed.
1910. Management of factory taken over by Bryan McDonald, who succeeded W. H. Alexander.
1919. Ownership of Beecher Falls Company acquired by Messrs. Bryan McDonald, Edgar C. Hirst, and Victor J. Kelly.
1921. W. J. Morrissey hired by Edgar C. Hirst as cost accountant.
1923. Death of Bryan McDonald.
1924. Sawmill and four million feet lumber destroyed by fire. Factory unharmed.
1925. Beecher Falls Company sold to Beecher Falls Company, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation, and C. E. Skerry takes over management.  
Railroad north into Canada abandoned.
1932. Beecher Falls Company, Inc., declared bankrupt and factory closed.
1934. Beecher Falls Furniture Corporation, a Vermont corporation, headed by T. Ashley Dent of New York, purchases plant from Bankruptcy Court. Factory re-opens with funds obtained by mortgaging it to Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
1935. Reconstruction Finance Corporation forecloses mortgage and factory closes.
1936. Beecher Falls Manufacturing Corporation, a Vermont corporation made up of local people and former employees, acquires plant from RFC and reopens it for business.  
Sept. 1st, 1936, The T. Baumritter Co., Inc., of New York appointed exclusive sales agents.
1938. Internal reorganization effected and stock thereby released is purchased by Messrs. N. S. Ancell, Theo Baumritter, and W. J. Morrissey, who had taken over management in 1937 when he returned for that purpose.
1939. "Ethan Allen Colonial Furniture" introduced.
1943. Disastrous flood June 15th. Railroad between Beecher Falls and Colebrook out of commission for five months.

SUPPLEMENTARY.Significant dates in the history of the plant at Beecher Falls (Continued):-

- 1947        Marshall Ames entered employ of factory, June 30th.  
               Modern dry kilns installed in large five compartment brick and steel building.
- 1956        ConveyORIZED Rough Mill installed in new Butler steel building.  
               Baumritter Corporation acquires all outstanding stock of Beecher Falls Manufacturing Corporation and other furniture manufacturing industries in which they held substantial or controlling interests.
- 1961        Marshall Ames appointed General Manager & Executive Vice-President.
- 1962        Cement block firewall erected, bi-secting main building erected 1894.  
               First unit of cement block steel frame warehouse erected, 150' x 40'.

SUPPLEMENTARYDirectors and officers of Beecher Falls Manufacturing Corporation, September 1962:

Directors:	W. J. Morrissey	Officers:	W. J. Morrissey, President
	Nathan S. Ancell		N. S. Ancell, Vice-Pres. & Treasurer
	Theo Baumritter		T. Baumritter, Vice-Pres.
	Marshall Ames		Marshall Ames, Vice-Pres., Asst. treasurer.
	Edwin H. Dwinell		Wilfrid Gagnon, Secretary.

Staff:

Marshall Ames	Plant Manager
Edwin Dwinell	Superintendent
Ted Greenwood	Assistant Superintendent
Beaton Marsh	Engineer
Ted Pariseau	Chief Accountant
George Carr	Yard Superintendent
John Mongeau	Building Maintenance & Construction
Waldo Paige	Operating engineer, Steam & Electric plant
Russell Holmes	Sawmill & Yard - Night shift
Tim Young	Piping - Installation & Maintenance
Wilman Allen	Machine Maintenance & Installation
Wendell Hughes	Electrical Installation & Maintenance
Harlie Weir	Log Buyer
Fred Leonard	Dry Kiln Operator
Roy Mickleboro	Rough Mill
Lloyd Paquette	Panel & Glue Dept.
Reg Johnson	Finish Machine
Nelson Bunnell	Finish Machine
Ed Simard	1st Cabinet Room
Stewart Mickleboro	1st Cabinet Room & Stock
Winston Hubbard	2nd Cabinet Room
Claude Bacon	Sanding & parts inventory
Jimmy Pariseau	Finishing
Bill Hann	Asst. Finishing
Jimmy Fisher	Rub & Pack
Paul Ames	Repair Patch & Inspect
Lyman Gadwah	Traffic
Kenneth Hann	Shipping
Burns Paquette	Hardware Purchase & Stock
Burny Hall	Supply Purchase & Stock
J. W. Gagnon	Time Study & Rating



SUPPLEMENTARY.

People working at the factory September 15th, 1962, listed in the order of year they were first employed. (NOTE:- Not necessarily with factory continuously since date first employed, as some were in service for several years; others left temporarily for one reason or another).

1936	Lloyd Paquette Paul Thibeault Herman Lachance Thomas Beloin Hector Thibeault	Murray Haynes George Thibeault Joe Couturier Fred Leonard Ed Simard	Gerard Cote Emile Therrien Edward Bohan Arthur Condon Ed Dwinell
1937	Bill Richardson Clovis Richards W. J. Morrissey	George Gilbert Alva Paradis	Maurice Young Burns Paquette
1938	Wendell Lakin W. C. Prehemo Leo Dionne	Evan Lefebvre Reg Jones Albert Blanchard	Hermas Gendreau Gerard Thibeault
1939	Gordon Frizzell	Cleo Dwinell	Irene Hann
1940	Roscoe Cross Eddie Leigh, Sr Ted Greenwood	Alton Bunnell Nadia McComiskey	Arthur Richards Ted Pariseau
1941	Arthur Berry, sr. Gaston Jalbert Russell Rowell	Bill French Frank Uran	Laurier Thibeault Harold Uran
1942	Leon Bissonnette Jesse Mickleboro Waldo Paige	Franklin Bordeau Norman Lapointe Bob Fuller	Woodrow Gamsby Leo Lachance Marge Ackley
1943	Roland Chaloux Abner Ladd	Kathryn Hall Clint Brooks	Virginia Mills
1944	Maurice Jalbert Bill Paige	Elwin Ladd Robert Burns	Stewart Mickleboro
1945	Roy Mickleboro Ernest Bohan Jimmy Pariseau	Uldee Daigneault Emile Lemieux Wilfrid Gagnon	Lawrence Noyes "Jack" Fissette
1946	John Mongeau Bill Blodgett Guy Crawford John Noyes	Wayne Brooks Grathia Ladd Wendell Hughes Lucille Riendeau	George Noyes Jimmy Fisher Arthur Caron Winston Hubbard
1947	George Mathieu Arthur Jalbert George Brown, jr Marshall Ames	Guy Pond Forrest Hubbard Lee Lemieux Lyman Gadwah	Richard Jackson Henri Dupuis Lola Jackson
1948	Wayne Estabrook Leo Bergeron Adalbert Lemieux	Claude Bacon Oscar Cote Mayo Levenson	Thomas Hughes Walter McComiskey

SUPPLEMENTARY

Continued from preceding page:

1949	Joseph Thibodeau Edward Tilton Gerald Fearon Wilman Allen	Nelson Bunnell, Jr Sherburn Heath Kenneth Hann Harlie Weir	John Cullivan Stanley ("Bill") Hann Dermont Dowse Charles Rice
1950	Paul Mailhot Wayland French Burnham Judd, Sr Nelson Brown Roland Burns	Lucien Pariseau Otis French Geraldine Paquette Lovell French Howard Noyes	Nelson Lamere Clifton Clogston, Jr Leo Cloutier Joseph Corriveau Louis Bissonnette
1951	Armand Riendeau Lynnwood Peck Wilson Rowell	Donat Brousseau Clayton "Tim" Young Burnice Hall	Lionel Chaloux George Carr
1952	Raymond Maurais Guy Wiswell Sr Rosario Crete Carl Coburn	Reg Johnson Basil Berry Gordon Crawford Jeannette Maurais	Everett "Pete" Russell Eugene Gosselin Victor Maurais
1953	Lester Brooks Jack Wheeler Rudolph Grondin Tom Riley Jr	Archille Riendeau Willie Judd Sr Eric Robinson Emile Giguere	Richard T. Hunt Raymond Chaloux Rodney Heath
1954	Edw. Leigh Jr Armand Charest Sherman Dorman	William Adair Philip Shallow Donald Carney	Jean-Marie Dagesse Adolph Rathier
1955	Wilfrid D'Anjou Donald Biron Fred Foote Roland Brigham Gaston Tetreault Mary Ellen Kenney Ray Bryant Irene Rogers Arthur L. Graves	Wendell Haynes Fred Stewart Sr Paul Jackson Jules Grondin Bertrand Martin Henry Prehemo Percy Daniels Lucienne Paradis	Ceil Brigham Waldo Brousseau Clement Dagesse Norman Rancloes Naomi Kenney Emily Jeffers Albert Caron Beaton Marsh
1956	Laurent Dupuis George Crawford Leland Masters Weldon Masters Denis Crete Freeman Colby Charles Towle Sanford Ladd	Norman Paradis Earl Dobson Raymond Horner Roland Arseneault Marcel Marquis Gertrude Giguere Marie Mercier Peter Hebert	Rita Crete Leopold Inkel Everett Stanton Gerard Dube King Towle Harry Biron Edward Owen
1957	Irma Bacon Ernest D'Anjou Raymond Lanctot John Morrissey	Robert Mercier Merton Straw Margaret Mickleboro	Martial Breault Roland Dagesse Marguerite Donaldson